



TOP_{to}TOP

GLOBAL CLIMATE EXPEDITION



Annual Report 2011



colourful India



Alegria Tea Elena



Clean up Koh Lipe



Pachamama



Kalangano



Plastic Campaign



Noé and his friend



Tanzania



Clean up Surin Islands



Clean up Kilimanjaro



Water Project Maasai Country



Distributing School Material



NTU Presentation



Happy Children



TOP of Africa



Clean up Cocos



Tarangire N.P.



Solution Contest in India



Loiborsoit



40,000 nautical miles

This year the expedition travelled through ten different countries: India, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia (Cocos (Keeling) Islands), Mauritius (including Rodríguez Island), La Reunion (France) and Tanzania. TOPtoTOP members were active in a total of 14 countries.

Thanks to Swissnex India, the Swiss representation in Delhi and Bangalore, and the branches of SGS and Victorinox, our stay in India was a great success. After India we travelled through Southeast Asia, visiting many schools and carrying out many activities. The 'TOPtoTOP Climate Solution Contest' was once again met with great interest.

Highlights included our participation in the 'Clean Energy Expo Asia' in Singapore, where TOPtoTOP had been invited as guest speaker for the second time after our initial presentation in 2009. Swissnex Singapore gave us a good platform at their booth.

In Thailand, the deck of the *Pachamama* was completely overhauled. It was painted, logos were renewed and, thanks to Sika, the nine Sunware panels were securely glued onto the deck.

In Malaysia we participated in the Royal Langkawi Regatta. On this island we organised a great clean up action in conjunction with the Navy. Despite pouring rain, over 150 people in more than 20 yachts participated and cleaned the beaches of five surrounding islands. We also appointed Zuraidah Abidin as our TOPtoTOP Ambassador in Langkawi, and we started the 'TOPtoTOP No Plastic' campaign with her. Thanks to our sponsors, we were able to promote drinking water filters instead of plastic bottles, and to make reusable shopping bags available free of charge. However, the lucky recipients had to promise that they would no longer use plastic bottles or shopping bags, and that they would also immediately encourage others to do the same.

In Southeast Asia, it was unimaginable just how much plastic was floating in the sea. Even on the remote island of Cocos Keeling in the Indian Ocean, the windward coast was full of plastic, and in Thailand at times we were wading knee-deep in plastic bottles. At the same time, the populations of some fish species and marine turtles are falling dramatically because they die miserably from becoming entangled in plastic. Furthermore, all destinations have reported that the sea is warmer and that the temperature is rising. Floods during Spring tides have become more common on Cocos Keeling and rising sea temperatures are having dramatic consequences for the marine life in northern Thailand.

The maritime ecosystem, the foundation of the food chain, is collapsing! TOPtoTOP is endeavouring, on the one hand, to avoid the pollution by instigating the 'TOPtoTOP No Plastic' campaign, and on the other is trying to limit the damage with our 'TOPtoTOP Clean Ups'. Generally, enormous amounts of CO₂ could be saved if the unnecessary production of plastic was limited!

On the journey through the Malacca Strait, there was an incident: after a collision with a tree trunk, we had a leak. All bilge pumps were successfully deployed and we overcame the threat of taking on water. Thanks to James Khoo of the Marina in Lumut for undertaking the repairs.

Swissnex organized an event at the NTU University in Singapore, which was opened by Ambassador Jörg Reding. This event marked the fruitful establishment of a partnership between the NTU and TOPtoTOP. At the current time, there are three NTU teams under the direction of Professor Subodh Mhaisalkar endeavouring to work with Fuel cells, LED and lithium batteries in an effort to make the *Pachamama* more energy efficient.

Chris Ngoi, the winner of 'TOPtoTOP Climate Solution Awards 2010' founded 'TOPtoTOP Asia' in Singapore with 30 people on 17 April. Thus, the continuation and the sustainability of the projects that are implemented by the expedition is guaranteed.

At the farewell event on leaving the Asia region at the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club, Ambassador Jörg Reding paid tribute to the many initiatives of the TOPtoTOP expedition that started 'the ball rolling' and commended them for not only to thinking about it, but especially for putting it into practice.

During this time Alegra Tea Elena was born at the KK hospital in Singapore. For the entire Schwörer family this was the happiest event of the year, and we planted a tree over the placenta in the grounds of the Swiss Club in

Singapore. The worst event of the year was when Noé was diagnosed with the rare Kawasaki Disease, and as a result had to be repatriated by the REGA. Thanks to the REGA, the Phuket International Hospital and the University Hospital in Zurich, Noé is now healthy and can continue on the voyage.

Following our tradition, Alegria was baptised on the mountain 'Gonzen' in Switzerland, and Lucia organized families to attend a TOPtoTOP camp in Maloja. After the success of the third TOPtoTOP camp, it was decided to hold this event in the first week of August every year in future.

On the way across the Indian Ocean risk management, as a result of the threat of Somali pirates, was not easy: depending on the route, one has to reckon with pirates or further South with storms and freak waves. The Swiss Embassy connected us with Commander Jean-Michael Kergoat of the French Navy, and he worked out a risk analysis for TOPtoTOP. As a result, the pirate area was avoided by a wide bypass to the South. Our credo for our decision: 'we can overcome storms with good seamanship; on the larger scale, it is up to us. It is, however, far more difficult to overcome homicidal and unpredictable pirates'.

The highlight of the expedition was the 'Clean Up Kilimanjaro Expedition' in Tanzania. Also accompanying us was the first Maasai, who, with great strength, reached the TOP after travelling from the coast. Carl Elsener, aged 11, was the youngest member at the Summit. Mount Kilimanjaro was the fifth TOP after Everest; Denali and Vinson are the two remaining mountains to climb.

Due to climate change, the Maasai country is struggling with more frequent droughts. In the village of Loiborsoit, TOPtoTOP wants to set an example for sustainable water management with the use of solar energy. It will be educational for the entire region.

The first project will be the installation of gutters and tanks, so that the water from the buildings' roofs can be collected. The second part of the project is to replace the defective pump in the village well and to set it up to operate with solar energy in the future. Thanks to Markus Heeb, who will visit the project annually, the sustainability is guaranteed.

Our member Hanna of the Rotary Club of Yankalilla in South Australia is pleased to report that the 'Coloured Pencils for Children in Nepal' project has come to fruition. The Rotary Club of Yankalilla collected 585 packets of coloured pencils, 333 sharpeners and 200 colouring-in books which were sent to Kathmandu in September, where Lhakpa Gyalzen Sherpa will distribute them in needy schools in the Himalayas.

Thanks to Swissnex India, the media coverage was very high in India. TV and print media in all countries reported very positively on the TOPtoTOP campaign, and there were many reports and articles.

During the 6000 nautical miles travelled this year, we learned about good environmental protection projects. Between Cocos Keeling and Mauritius, we passed the 40,000 nautical mile mark.

Since the launch, the number of visitors to our presentations has increased to 56,000. During that time, TOPtoTOP has collected a total of 27 tonnes of waste!

Without the generosity and hospitality of the people we met on our journey and your support, our voyage would have been inconceivable. A big thank you to our patron donor 'Presence Switzerland', 'UNEP' and our two main sponsors 'SGS' and 'Victorinox'. We would also like to thank all patrons and all those who support our project with their top products and services (see 'Supporters' on www.toptotop.org).

A special thanks to our members Kalanga, Lengai, Zuraidah Abidin, Roland Fontanive, Annemarie Büchler, Matteo Micheli, Karen Undritz, the Peter family and Brigitte Storm, along with Tessa; Peter Locher, Christopher Ngoi, Gabi and Nicole Bolliger, Stéphane and Oliver Meylan, Robert Heinzer, the Veronica family and Carl Elsener, along with Johanne, Marie-Louise and Carl; Franz Britschgi, Thomas Lohbeck, Stephan and Wanja Baumann, the Adi family and Lucia Hunziker along with Dario and Lia; the Michela family and Mirko Malgiaritta along with Morena and Nico, Eliane and Johannes von Niederhüssern; Hildegard Fischer, Michael Tatcher, Dominique Gabella, Adrian and Anne Hofer and family including Enna, Ilona and Lorena, Dominik and Silke Schaub; the Flurina family and Max Pittin along with Malvina and Claudio; Markus Heeb, Tina and

Hansjörg Wittwer and family including Marvin and Noah; Tobias Ammam, René and Radhika Seiler and family including Sabrina, Piero, Romina and Dario; Walter Rupp, Felix Buechi, Vivek and Deepa Chatrath, Li Zixuan, Soh Serena, Jingyi Wang, Tan Yen Kheng, Subodh Mhaisalkar, Taras Wankewycz, Koh Eng Kiong, Basil Tan She Jeeng, Giuseppe Cavallaro, Denise Berger along with Linda, Markus and Mercedes Marbach and also Seline and Chantal; Sandro and Tanja Steiner and family including Celia and Noah; Marco and Cynthia Preisig and family including Rebecca, Sebastian and Ariana; Christoffel Denoth, Christoph Müller, Aldo Brändli and Eveline; Hansjörg and Elisabeth Wuetrich and also Thomas and Ursina; Armanda and Franz Schlegel and Flurina, Luana and Mael; Jessie Zheng Zhang and Bianca Tani who all actively participated in the expedition or an event.

We are also thankful for the support and assistance from Ambassador Jörg Reding, Ambassador Welti, Consul Peter Zimmerli, Father Stephan, Silvia Hostetter, Suzanne Hraba-Renevey, Cresenciano Maramot, Jyoti Arora, Janis Barker, Rebecca Haug, Paul House, Anish Goel, Gustav Bracher, Kurt Dingelmann, Philip Grey, MD Patriya Watharong, Thomas Schmocker, Lhakpa Gyalzen Sherpa, Hamish and Michelle Thoborn, André Zika, James Khoo, Mohd Azmi (FCU) and family, Daniel Paris, Annaleah Aguino, Josette Riviere, TS Chung, Robert and Poh Chua and family, LCDR Jean-Michel Kergoat, Professor Bertil Anderson, Ding Ovi Lian, Subodh Mhaisalkar and family, Rachid Yazami, Wang Zizhen, Thomas Schaffer, Thomas Reindl, Werner Trachsel, Heinz Iten, Tamilsivi, Elaine and Irene Chua, Jürg Zahnd, Roland Pfiffner, Marco Kappenberger, Armoogum Parsuramen, Dharmarajan Periasamy, Sanjay Sooprayen, the crews of SY Geronimo, SY September, SY Dharma Bum III, SY Imania, SY Yana de Lis, SY Tea, SY Seventh Heaven, SY Spirit of Sobraon, SY Pomona, SY Empire, SY Conversations and SY Styrr.

A special thank you to Gabi Bolliger, Thomas Lohbeck, Hanna Law, Natalia Gimpel, Christopher Ngoi, Peter Storm, Theres and Martin Biinswanger-Ducret and family including Anne, and our parents Rosi and Ernst Ammann and Ottavia and Reto Schwörer, who have worked like little dwarfs looking after administration, logistics, website maintenance, and accounting.

By the end of 2011, we will be in South Africa and at the 'World Global Climate Conference' in Durban. Then we will travel across the South Pacific to the 'World Summit Rio 20 +' in Brazil, and then further to the North. We plan to travel across the United States throughout 2013/14 by bicycle and to be active in as many States as possible. After that, we plan to travel through the NW Passage to the next TOP, Denali in Alaska. The 'TOPtoTOP Climate Solution Award Expedition' is planned for February 2013 in Switzerland. After Denali, we will continue the circumnavigation of the Americas from N to S, which will culminate in climbing the final TOP, Mount Vinson in Antarctica. We want to reach Milano for the 2015 World Exhibition. Anyone who is interested, and those wishing to volunteer, please contact Dario (dario@toptotop.org).

Annual Report 2011 also available as a download in 'News' on www.toptotop.org.

Membership fees for 2011 are requested to be paid no later than end of October 2011.

Young people CHF 20 Schools CHF 75.- Companies/associations/patrons
from CHF250.-.

Adults CHF 50 Families CHF 75.-

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Gift idea: Book "The Schwörers". Order directly via the website www.toptotop.org

Thank you for your support!